Restricted Area Permit System in North Eastern States

1930. SHRI DAVID LEOGER : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government propose to lift the 'Restricted Area Permit System' from the North Easterns States to boost tourism ;

(b) if so, the details thereof ; and

(c) if not the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) No, Sir, However, Restricted/ Protected Area Regime is reviewed from time to time keeping in view the needs and exigencies of the situation and also taking into account necessary security considerations. This is a continuous process.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Operation of Vayudoot in the Country

1931. SHRI V. GOPALSAMY : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) how many Vayudoot aircrafts are at present in operation in the country ;

(b) how many such aircrafts were grounded recently ;

(c) whether any steps are being taken to revamp the Vayudoot services ; and

(d) if so, the details thereof ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) and (b) Out of 8 Avro and 8 Dornier aricraft, 1 Avro and 2 Dornier aircraft are at present operational. Rest are grounded for major inspections/checks/ repairs. 1 Avro and 1 Dornier aircraft were grounded during October and November, 1993.

(c) and (d) Within the limitation of the available funds, efforts are continuing to make the grounded aircraft operational.

Agreement for Joint Operation to Gulf Cities by AI and IA

1932. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether Air India and Indian Airlines have recently concluded an agreement for joint operations to Persian Gulf cities ;

(b) if so, what are the details in this regard ;

(c) to what extent the Indian Airlines will cover its losses and increase its capacity ; and

(d) to what extent it will be able to complete with other Airlines ?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM (SHRI GHULAM NABI AZAD) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) 12 flights per week are proposed to be operated under the Joint Venture using Indian Airlines' A320 aircraft with Air India flight numbers from Calicut to Muscat/Dubai/Abu Dhabi. While these operation are expected to generate a surplus, a precise indication of the extent to which losses of Indian Airlines will be covered, cannot be given at this stage.

(d) Operations between calicut and Gulf will be undertaken by the national carrier only.

Delay in Payment under Voluntary Retirement Scheme by ITDC

1933. PROF. SAURIN BHATTACHARYA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION AND TOURISM be pleased to state :

(a) whether the ITDC management has been delaying the final payment to some officers and staff who opted out under Voluntary Retirement Scheme ;